

A new diapiiid (Hymenoptera: Diapriidae) from termite nests from South Africa

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(Submitted through D. P. Annecke, Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria)

Specimens of a very interesting species of Diapriidae have recently been received for identification from South Africa. They were submitted by Mr D. P. Annecke, Pretoria, who stated that they had been obtained from the fungus comb of *Odontotermes latericius* (Haviland) at two different localities a few miles from Pretoria. In all probability the species develops as a parasite of the termitoxeniid, *Syntermitoxenia pseudonanna* (Schmitz) (det. E. M. Beyer) which was present in both nests. I have been unable to place the diapiiid as a described species and have accordingly prepared the following description of it. A new generic name seems also to be required.

Genus *TERMITOPRIA* gen. nov., fig. 1 A-E

This seems to be most similar to *Calogalesus* Kieffer and *Microgalesus* Kieffer, both monotypic genera originally described from the Seychelles, the type species of the latter has more recently been recorded from the Ivory Coast (Risbec, 1953:551). It resembles both genera in the unusual shape of the head, with the face and clypeus ventral and the mouth at the posterior margin of the head; in the position of the ocelli, which are situated far forward; in the presence of small but conspicuous tooth-like projections on the frons, and in the lack of notauli. It differs strikingly from both in the barely visible, scale-like petiole of the abdomen, in the absence of foveae at the base of the scutellum, and in the female antenna being only slightly and gradually thickened apically and lacking a defined club.

As in *Calogalesus* and *Microgalesus* the only known species of *Termitopria* is very small, measuring only about 1 mm in length. Head quadrate; frons anteriorly with four small, acute, tooth-like projections; face and clypeus ventral; mandibles near posterior margin of head and projecting downward; eyes small, and, together with the ocelli, situated far forward; antennae 12-segmented in the female, the flagellum widening a little apically but without a distinct club. Notauli absent; suture at base of scutellum very fine, not foveate; propodeum smooth, its spiracles large and rather prominent; wings narrow, fringed with long hairs. Abdominal petiole very strongly transverse, scale-like, not easily seen; hypopygium of female large, ploughshare-shaped.

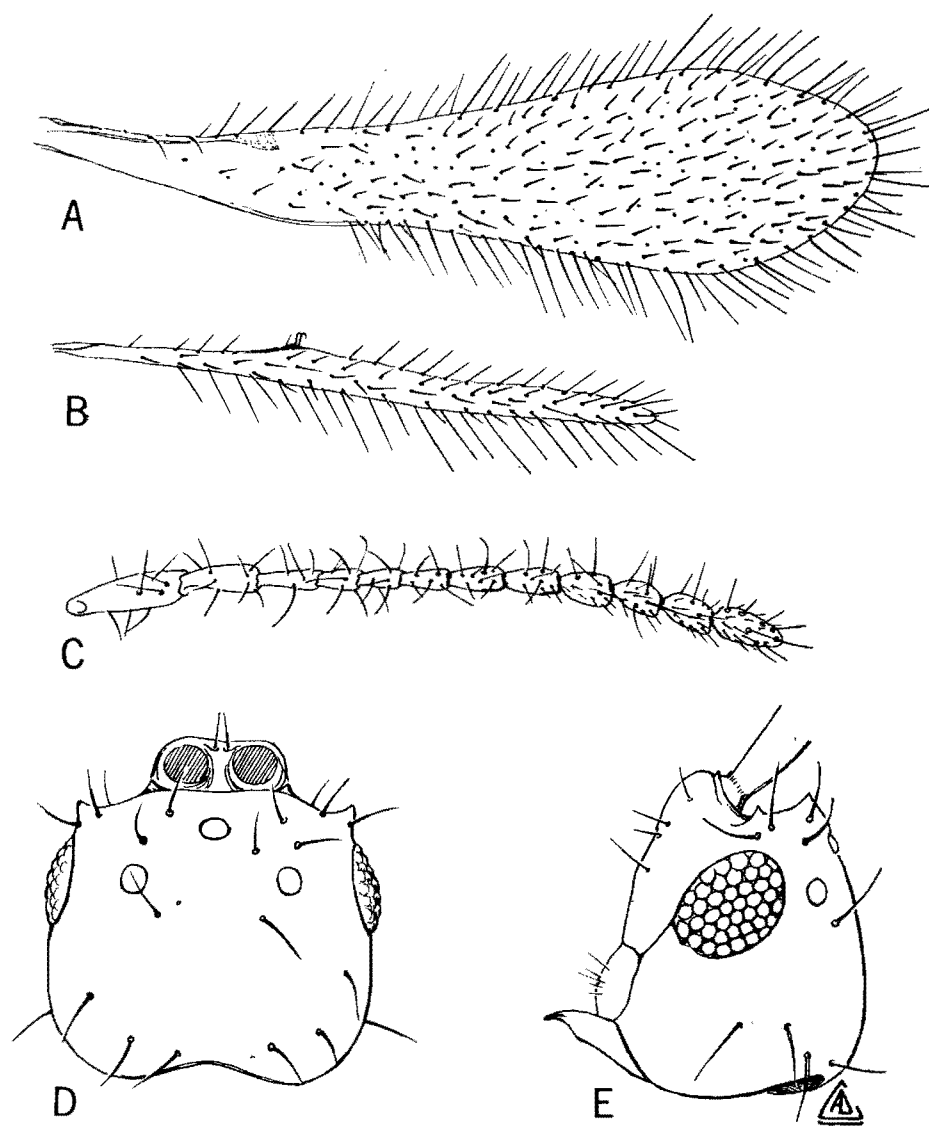


Fig. 1. *Termitopria sheasbyi* spec. nov., female. A. fore wing; B. hind wing; C. antenna; D. head, dorsal view; E. head, lateral view.

Type species of the genus:

***Termitopria sheasbyi* spec. nov.**

FEMALE: Length about 1 mm. Head smooth and polished, quadrate as seen from above, at least as long as wide, parallel-sided, gently convex dorsally; eyes small and far forward; temple about twice as long as transverse diameter of eye; ocelli also far forward, the lateral ones in front of the line of the posterior eye margins and the distance between them about one and one-half times their distance from the eyes; frons with four small, acute, tooth-like projections, one pair in front of and in line with the lateral ocelli, the others adjacent to the compound eyes; malar space nearly as long as eye; face ventral, flat, smooth and shining; clypeus about as long as wide, convex, weakly separated from face; antennae nearly as long as the body; scape somewhat thickened and a little shorter than the head; pedicel cylindrical, more than half as long as scape; flagellum very slightly broadened apically, all the segments much longer than broad, the last segment considerably longer than the penultimate.

Thorax hardly as wide as head, a little wider than high; mesonotum rather flat, smooth and polished, with a few scattered long hairs; no trace of notauli; scutellar suture very fine, not foveate; propodeum smooth and polished, without carinae, the spiracles a little elevated and conspicuous. Legs rather slender, only the femora a little broadened. Wings very narrow and with a fringe of long hairs on both anterior and posterior margins; subcosta not attaining end of basal third of fore wing and with a subquadrate thickening at its apex.

Abdomen rather stout, the petiole extremely short and strongly transverse, like a very thin scale, which is so closely appressed to the following segment that it is not easily seen in most specimens; hypopygium very large and plough-share-shaped.

In colour rather uniformly brownish-piceous; wings subhyaline.

MALE: Unknown.

MATERIAL STUDIED: ♀-Holo- and paratypes from near Derdepoort, Pretoria (Tvl.), 4.II.1963 and Waverley, Pretoria, 20.II.1963, J. L. Sheasby, Number T 1337; many females reared from the fungus comb of *Odontotermes latericius* (Haviland); in National Collection of Insects, Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria.

It is a pleasure to name this interesting species in honour of the collector of the type material. The drawings are by Arthur D. Cushman, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

REFERENCES

- RISBEC, J., 1953. Chalcidoïdes et Proctotrupoïdes de l'Afrique occidentale française. 2. *Bull. Inst. franç. Afr. noire* 15: 549-609.